Numb. 13.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, April the 26th. 1681.

Jeſt. I Thought what this publiſhing and deviſing *falſe news would come to, whereby Diſcord or occaſion of Diſcord might riſe between the King or his People and the great men of the Realm.* Well! I gave them as fair warning as any man alive could; and all that I got for my pains was to be call'd *Jeſuit*, and *Tory*.

Earn. What's the matter, Brother? why ſo paſſionate?

Jeſt. Would it not move any mans Patience to be abuſed at this rate for his good will? Well Mr. Mayor you had e'n as good go a fiſhing for red Herrings, and your man *Care* fall again to Splitting and fagotting Cauſes and Clients, as turn Tenants to *Ben. Harris*'s Landlord, and *Fr. Smith* with his young Elephant might as well have kept to their Office and Trade of the Regeneration Cucking-ſtool as to become Inmate to his old friend and Pot-Companion, where wee'l leave him to provide conveniencies for the reſt of his Brethren (his Shop being daily guarded and grac'd with a City Poſt and gold Chain) for I have ſtrong Imagination they will not be long after him.

Earn. What reaſon have you to think ſo?

Jeſt. I have 19 Reaſons, one is becauſe I heard a Bird ſing ſo, another is becauſe Mr. *Law* ſays ſo, a third becauſe they have been notorious High-way-men, they have ſet upon the Kings Liege People, and not having the fear of God before their eyes have feloniouſly murdered the good name of his Majeſties Subjects, and have pickt their Pockets, frighted ſeveral perſons by fears and jealouſies till their hearts were at their mouths, and then by legerdemain, hocuſs'd their true hearts out of their bellies, and popt in falſe ones, and converted them as they call it, to be e'en after their own hearts.

Earn. This is a long Reaſon, you might have made half a dozen of it with good husbandry.

Jeſt. Another is becauſe the Devil when he ows a man a ſhrewd turn, is a ſure paymaſter, eſpecially if the Debt be under hand and Seal, as it is betwixt him and Witches, he's a punctual Dealer; now this contract being an Indenture or *Covenant of Rebellion*, which is of the very ſame nature with Witchcraft, they may be ſure of exact payment at the Day; and to be ſhort with you, that which includes all my 19 reaſons why I think ſo, is becauſe I think ſo.

Jeſt. A very ſubſtantial Reaſon for a man of your profeſſion! but ſuppoſe they ſhould face about and every one ſave a man, what do you think of that? Mr. Mayor has given a Specimen of it, he laughs at the *Jeſuit* of *Colen* who writes the Latin Gazet, and the Damſel of *Hatfield*, both which were whilome good authorities for the *true Proteſtant Mercury* to bottom the faith of the Party upon.

Jeſt. Why, now you have nick't it; this is one of my moſt ſubſtantial Reaſons, they are ſo nimble and exact at turning that there is no Queſtion but they will take a turn.

Earn. There are ſeveral ſorts of turnings: there is a turning with a mental reſervation, as when a Jeſuit turns a Diſſenting Proteſtant, or a Diſſenting Brother turns a Proteſtant Jeſuit, and endeavours to ſet us all together by the ears for Conſcience ſake, there is a turning the Cat in the Pan, a turning for Intereſt, a turning off, a turning out, a turning with the tide, and a world of other turnings, pray which do you mean.

Jeſt. I mean all of them or any of them, for they will be out at nothing ſo they may turn the Penny, and help to overturn the Government.

Earn. But I hope both the wind and tide are turning, and that all people will become truly ſenſible of their danger and turn wiſe; and not ſuffer themſelves to be abuſed as they have been by a company of Factious diſcontented People under the pretence of Liberty, Property and Religion, to run the hazard of loſing them all and Ruining the Government both in Church and State, and if this ſhould happen as it is in a very fair way, what will then become of your famous Turners?

Jeſt. Why they may turn true Proteſtant Bowls and Diſhes, and Spoons and Taps: but good Sir, when is this Age of the Philoſophers ſtone to be expected? I ſhould be glad to ſee that turn, which will turn all our Pockets full of Guineas: Oh that Golden Age is a brave time!

Earn. Obſerve me Sir, This Golden Age which you and all People do ſo much long for, is not to be had with wiſhing, it can never comein to *England*, till there is a good Underſtanding between the Sovereign and his Subjects, and to effect this every honeſt man muſt do ſomething. Don't you remember the Fable of the Waggoner, who being overloaded and ſet faſt, fell to praying to *Hercules* to help him out; to whom *Hercules* anſwered, Whip on the Team and ſet thy ſhoulder to the wheel, and then pray and ſee what will be done.

Jeſt. What would you have people do?

Earn. Why, I would have them do as the King and the Laws direct: Let them but follow thoſe Guides, and they cannot miſcarry; His Majeſty has both by his late Speech and Declaration aſſured his People that he will Rule and Govern according to Laws; *and that he is ſo far from arbitrary Deſigns himſelf that he will not permit them in any of his Subjects*, ſo that his Majeſty reſolving to do his part, the People if they will be happy muſt do theirs.

Jeſt.

Jeſt. And what is that?

Earn. Obſerve who are they that have diſturbed the Government; who are they that are for living and acting arbitrarily contrary to, and againſt the known Laws, and endeavour to diſcountenance them.

Jeſt. So; You are for perſecuting Proteſtant Diſſenters then I find.

Earn. And why Perſecuting?

Jeſt. Becauſe it is for their Conſciences they muſt ſuffer, is not that plain Perſecution?

Earn. Pray let me ask you a Queſtion, why are the *Papiſts* puniſhed?

Jeſt. There's a Queſtion indeed; for breaking the Laws.

Earn. They do it for Conſcience, and if Diſſenting Proteſtants can ſhew one ſubſtantial difference why one ſhould be Juſtice and the other Perſecution, they ſhall have my conſent to break the Laws and yet ſcape ſcotfree.

Jeſt. Ay Sir, but the Proteſtant Diſſenters are numerous, and therefore ought not to be puniſhed.

Earn. This is juſt like the little Freebooter who being brought before great *Alexander* and accuſed for his Pyracies, told him he was condemned for robbing in a ſingle ſhip, whilſt that great King robbed with mighty Fleets and was applauded. Does the multitude of Offenders take away the Guilt? then here's brave encouragement to the *Papiſts* under the notion of Diſſenters to proſelyte people to their Church, and when they are grown numerous, that gives a Title to impunity, the next ſtep is Toleration, and when they are grown ſtrong enough to demand it, who muſt deny them Eſtabliſhment. This is the method which our Diſſenters drive at, and you ſee what a cunning back-door it opens for Popery.

Jeſt. But I hope we ſhall have a Parliament yet will heal all, and take care to ſecure the foundations of the Government from the attempts both of Popiſh & Proteſtant *Jeſuits.*

Earn. I hope ſo too; and ſince his Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to aſſure his People *that the unwarrantable proceedings of former Parliaments ſhall not prevent his meeting his people with all the affection imaginable*, it is to be hoped that the People will endeavour to chuſe ſuch perſons to repreſent them, as by complying with his Majeſties juſt commands and the Nations true Intereſt, may ſecure our Laws, Liberties and Religion againſt the arbitrary practices of Papiſts, and Commonwealth Diſſenters, which will be the moſt infallible expedient to render *England* quiet and happy; and for their being numerous, though I believe that to be a great miſtake, I'le tell you a ſtory. A very honeſt Gentleman who was maſter of a fair Eſtate, among other his demeans had near his Houſe ſeveral incloſures of moſt delightful Meadow, and a little, but curious Garden, whoſe walls afforded him the choiceſt fruit, and the Parterres the diverſion of many rare and beautiful Flowers: but by the negligence of his ſervants it happened that theſe fruitful Meadows came to be ſtock'd and under-run with thoſe ſubterranean Inhabitants, vulgarly called *Moles*; theſe plotting Vermine full of blind zeal were continually night and day working in their trenches, and throwing up hills, which is their way of Reformation, to turn a verdant and fruitful Field into a barren Wilderneſs; and to mend the matter, in theſe little dirty Hillocks which the *Moles* had thrown up, there bred a world of buſy ſtinging Congregational Inſects, who ſet up for themſelves by the way of Commonwealth, black and red Piſmires, Ants, or Emmets, for there are ſeveral Sects of them, and thoſe drove the *Moles* out where-ever they took poſſeſſion and obliged them to ſeek freſh quarters, and make new Hills and trenches: the Gentleman obſerving this, commands his ſervants to ſpread the Hills and level the Ground: which they did, but to little purpoſe; for the buſie Animals ſtill made them new work; and growing numerous they advanced to undermine the walls of his Garden, threw up his Flowers, made the walls ready to totter, and were beginning to undermine the very foundations of his Manſion.

Jeſt. Bleſs me, theſe were a ſort of impudent *Moles.*

Earn. Well! to be ſhort, a Gentleman a Neighbour of his coming to give him a Viſit, and hearing him complain, told him, that a famous Gardiner told him, that his Grandfather told him, that Queen *Elizabeths* Gardiner told him, that there was a Mole-trap made which frighted all the *Moles* out of her Majeſties Dominions, or at leaſt made them leave throwing up their Hills, and undermining the walls of her Garden; and if you deſire to make them leave their trenches, quoth he, do but ſet that Trap to work, and take half a dozen of the maſter-*Moles* and and all the reſt will be as quiet as Lambs.

Jeſt. Well! Come let's leave the *Moles*, and look for ſome *Queres.*

Earn. I proteſt I had a great parcel juſt now, but I cannot tell what is become of them.

Jeſt. I'le venture a Wager the *Moles* have either eaten them or buried them in their trenches: much good may they do them, theſe *Queres* will ſtick in their Gizzards I warrant them, they had as good have let them alone.

Earn. It is no matter, I can recruit you at any time. But pray when did you ſee the Popes Chimney-ſweeper *Comus* and his fellow Fool *Momus?*

Jeſt. But t' other day, the Rogues have got a basker, and pick up all the ſcraps, and reverſions which you and I leave when we eat together, and the ſucking *Elephant* Regales his cuſtomers with them; they are now a matter of five leagues a ſtern of us, weighing up an old *Geneva* Anchor, and if they can get it, and a *Manſter* Cable, they hope to ride out the ſtorm of Perſecution which they ſay is coming, in their old Worm-eaten Bottom, *the Church in England*, or I think ſhe is a *Pluraliſt*, the Churches in *England.*

Earn. What's the meaning of this?

Jeſt. Why Sir, it is a new invention of Mr. *Momus*'s the *Baptiſt* Divine in imitation of *Pettus* double-keeld Experiment. The Church is nicely to be Rebuilt with I know not how many bottoms. there is the Church of *England, by Law eſtabliſhed*, and there is the Church or Churches, for there are about 7 0, in *England*, that are not, but would be *by Law eſtabliſhed*, there's the Proteſtant-Anabaptiſt, there's the Proteſtant-Quaker, the Proteſtant Tinker of *Bedford*, the Proteſtant-Muggletonian, *&c.* for their name is *Legion*, and by that time all theſe bottoms are united, what a trim Sailer do you think this Church in *England* will be?

Jeſt. For my part I'le venture my ſtock in the old *Elizabeth* Church of *England*-bottom; and for the *New Englanders*, for all *Momus* his Divinity, it is no matter what Religion he be of, that ſits at the Helm; if there be ſuch Choice and all in the Right, what need they keep ſuch a ſplutter and a coil?

Earn. They'l make wiſe work I find, and no queſtion this ſplitting of Church bottoms is an excellent way to maintain the *unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*, which that I may be ſerious, I take to be ſuch *Canonical Scripture* as Diſſenting *Momus*'s may carp at, but will never be able to reconcile with ſenſe and experience, by maintaining ſuch Dividing Principles, as that every factious pack of fellows who have impudence enough to call themſelves a *Proteſtant Church in* England, are really ſo, when in truth they are only a congregation of Separatiſts and ſelf-will'd, ignorant Schiſmaticks, and ſome of them Hereticks into the bargain; and for all their railing at Popery, and a Popiſh Succeſſor, it is as evident as matter of fact can make it, that the Original manufacture of our Diſſenters came from *Rome*, and that the Trade has all along been driven on by the Popes Factors, and where they firſt took Water, there they will certainly land again, and they are like to be very fine true Proteſtants, who come of the Popes breed, as whoever will read a little Tract called *Foxes and Firebrands*, ſhall be convinced they do, beyond the poſſibility of doubting.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The true Proteſtant Tutors A Smith *and* Joyner *may be ſpoke withall every day at* Richards Coffee-houſe, *where any perſons may be inſtructed in the Art of breaking the Kings Peace; calling Loyal Subjects Popiſh Dogs, Tories, and all the modiſh names which accompliſh the mouths of true Proteſtant Hectors, who deſie both Law, Juſtice, and Religion.*

London, Printed for *B. Tooke*, 1681.